

March 12, 1976

true in Class Three Districts, I don't know...Class Two I believe would be the same. They just don't have to transport high school youngsters over four miles from school. Maybe I am wrong on this. Senator Lewis, I'm sure that you could correct me if I am. I don't want to object to it if I am mistaken, but without looking at the law here... Come on Frank, give us some dope.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, the current law says that if anybody lives more than four miles from school that they will be bused. That is an arbitrary number. I think that what Senator Fitzgerald says is that that arbitrary number is not good enough.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Does this pertain to all class districts?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: No, metropolitan class. I believe that is the way the bill is written, I don't have it before me. I shouldn't say metropolitan class, I should say Class Five.

PRESIDENT WHELAN PRESIDING.

PRESIDENT: Have you more debate Senator Dickinson? Senator Kennedy.

SENATOR KENNEDY: I would like to ask Senator Fitzgerald. I think that were...I don't know if we would call this non-controversial, but I'm looking at the testimony, he said that he had some problems up there and it says that there wasn't anyone there to ask for the bill, or testify in behalf of it. I think that Senator Fitzgerald had better give us a little more background again.

SENATOR FITZGERALD: I am worried about ten families in my district that live out in Ponca. This is what I am worried about. They won't bus their ninth grade students. You see, they go from 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th, and 7th grade in the City of Omaha. They call it junior high, and they will not bus the 9th graders, but they will bus the other ones. They come here with empty buses and I think that these people are entitled to it.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Well maybe redistricting. But out in our area 1-12 they furnish the bus transportation and I don't know if we have a special problem. It looks like someone should have supported the bill if they had a problem. If you read the testimony here it seems to me that...wasn't there anyone...was that family that was having a problem there?

SENATOR FITZGERALD: This is the problem alright, and that is why I put this in.

SENATOR KENNEDY: With one family?

SENATOR FITZGERALD: No, I have ten families.

SENATOR KENNEDY: What prevents them from taking a 9th grader? I mean all of the other districts do it? That is the law.